



DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK ALGOMA STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District
633 Albert St. E.
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

MEETING SUMMARY

Present:

Suzanne Hanna – Community Living Algoma
Arlene Gear – PRC
Vicky Roy – Alzheimer Society
Duane Buchanen
Barb Forest – Seniors Mental Health
Linda Sullivan – Alzheimer Society
Sue Hamel-Laford – Sault Area Hospital
Rhonda Masters – Seniors Mental Health
Jane Bridgewater – Seniors Mental Health
Carolyn Cybulski – Alzheimer Society
Christie Simon – Nurse Practitioner (guest)

1. Welcome and introductions made.
2. Christie Simon updated the group on the pilot project involving a nurse practitioner in long-term care homes (LTCHs). Christie is hopeful that the one-time funding will become permanent funding. The project will involve two local LTCHs, Extendicare Van Daele and the Ontario Finnish Rest Home, sharing the nurse practitioner who will be affiliated with the medical directors of these homes. Christie's role will be assessment and treatment, case management counselling, health promotion, etc. The goal is to respond to problems early in the disease process and avoid hospital admissions. Handout provided. Christie can be reached at christie_zad@shaw.ca.
3. Barb Forest presented the At Risk Driver Program currently being done as a partnership program of the Alzheimer Society of Durham and the Durham Regional Police. Members agreed that this would be a useful program to launch here. Carolyn will speak with a police officer from Sault Ste. Marie Police Services who is a member of the Alzheimer Society board of directors.
4. Carolyn distributed the brochures of the Alzheimer Education Conference scheduled for Friday, March 28, 2008. The theme of the conference is Communication and Relationships in Dementia Care. Cost is \$40 if registered before March 7.
5. Carolyn distributed the Alzheimer Awareness brochures for January's awareness campaign. The theme from last year, "Heads Up! For Healthier Brains" has been carried over to this year.

6. Arlene provided an update on the Education Committee:
 - PSW Newsletter continues. Very positive feedback from this publication.
 - Physician Newsletter continues. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of feedback from physicians on this publication. It is difficult to determine if the time and cost to produce and distribute the newsletter is worthwhile. Feedback survey last year yielded only one response with no comments on it. Decision made to continue for now.
 - Alzheimer Society brought in Daniel Kuhn in November with very positive results – 130 people in attendance.
 - Linda Sullivan is working with the SAH Advance Directives committee to provide community-wide advance care planning training. She hopes that the Education Committee will take this on as an initiative for this year.
7. Arlene reported that funding was again received from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care to provide training for 3 sessions of Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA). Although this funded training is specific for PSWs in the community, any level of worker in any setting would benefit from GPA. Agencies who are interested and able to pay for the costs of the training manual and reimbursement of worker wages (if desired) can contact Linda or Arlene.
8. Carolyn provided a report from the North East Dementia Network Coalition which she co-chairs. The 6 Dementia Networks in the North East LHIN are members of the Coalition, and participated in a full day strategic planning session in October. Linda and Carolyn attended this meeting. Three overall directions emerged from the planning session: organizational cohesiveness, relationships with stakeholders (primarily the LHIN), and education and awareness. Linda Sullivan has been contracted by the Coalition to assist in implementing the strategies under these three directions.
9. Carolyn provided members with information about First Link, which is a program that helps to connect people affected by dementia with resources early in the disease process, ideally upon diagnosis. The goal would be for physicians and other practitioners to automatically refer the individual to First Link as part of the overall plan of care. The First Link Coordinator would help the person make the connection to community resources and ensure that he/she is provided with the necessary support and education. It is hoped that the Alzheimer Society will be implementing First Link in East Algoma in the new year, and eventually North Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie.
10. Round table updates:
 - Barb stated that their staff complement is returning to normal and that an additional part time temporary position has been posted.
 - Sue stated that SAH has 40-50 patients waiting for placement at any given time. The new computer system, Meditech, being implemented at SAH is causing some upheaval but is the system is necessary and welcome. SAH is planning on re-starting the geriatric lecture series. Christie stated that McMaster will be offering videoconference sessions on Geriatrics and that SAH can participate in these.
11. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alzheimer Society.